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the common good of mankind, the product of human thought of all ages. It is something above or below the nations, but not a thing of their own. There is no nation (inclusive of primitive peoples) that has a culture entirely evolved from its own resources; there is no living nation that has a ghost of a claim to the generation of any fundamentals of culture. Our present and our future lie in our past. All that the practical investigator can hope for, at least for the present, is to study each cultural phenomenon as exactly as possible in its geographical distribution, its historical development, and its relation or association with other kindred ideas. The more theories will be smashed, the more new facts will be established, the better for the progress of our science.

The last chapter of Dr. Lowie's work is taken up by a thorough discussion of kinship terminologies, added as a concrete illustration of the methods propounded in the four preceding lectures. This subject is particularly his own domain, and as is well known, has elicited from his pen many contributions of permanent value.

B. LAUFER.

*Organic Evolution. A Text-book.* RICHARD SWANN LULL. The Macmillan Company: New York, 1917. XVIII, 729 pp., XXX plates, 253 figures. Price \$3.00 net.

The addition of another book to the extensive literature on evolutionary biology is justified by the fact that the author is a paleontologist. Of late, paleontology has fallen into disfavor with experimental biologists and students of heredity. The reason for this is, that paleontologists, seeing at every hand animals in complete agreement with their environment, have shown a tendency to describe the evolution of different organisms in terms which, though they cannot be called Lamarckian, still savor of the Lamarckian theory. Dr. Lull states his attitude as follows:

The geologic changes and the pulse of life stand to each other in the relation of cause and effect. This statement does not, however, imply the acceptance of the Lamarckian factor any more than that of natural selection, for whether the influence of a changing environment acts directly upon the creature's body, or indirectly through induced habit, or, whether it merely sets a standard to which animals must conform if they would survive, matters not; the fundamental principle remains that changing environmental conditions stimulate the sluggish evolutionary stream to quickened movement.

As the title implies, the scope of the book is unusually comprehensive and it is necessarily somewhat of a compilation. Several chapters are

almost entirely direct quotations. The clearness of the various chapters is inversely proportional to the amount of quoted matter.

One half of the book deals with the principles of biology. A separate chapter deals in turn with classification of organisms, distribution in space, both geographical and vertical, and distribution in time. The second part deals with the mechanism of evolution: natural, sexual and artificial selection, variation, mutation, heredity, acquired characters, etc. The remainder of the book deals with the evidences of evolution. After discussions on coloration, mimicry, parasitism and adaptation to various modes of life the author takes up in order three great lines of evolution culminating in the cephalopods among mollusca, the insects among arthropods, and mammals among vertebrates.

Doctor Lull has been very successful in preventing a book with such range from becoming a mere outline. Few books present such a wealth of material in such a readable form. The author's distinct contribution to the book, aside from his remarkable synthetic treatment of the whole subject, is his choice of examples illustrating the various phases of the subject. The animals named are, for the most part, the more common and well-known forms. The less familiar and fossil forms are shown in an adequate number of plates and figures which are a feature of the book.

The sections dealing with man are somewhat after the style of Huxley. The author's explanation of the loss of hair on the human body as being due to the use of clothing is perhaps not convincing in view of the fact that among modern men those least burdened with clothes are most glabrous. Nor, since the work of Von Luschan, Fishberg and others, do we think the "purity of the Hebrew race" is a very good example of the effect of segregation on natural selection. But errors of fact are very rare and the deductions sound and logical.

The illustrations and well-selected bibliography make it valuable as a text-book, especially in those schools which do not have access to the actual paleontological specimens. The clear and interesting presentation also adapts it to the general reader. No one working in the field of biology can ignore the findings of paleontology and the significance of their bearing on evolution. As the author justly claims, the final proofs of the evolutionary theory rest upon the documentary evidence which, in this instance, paleontology alone can furnish. It is to be hoped that this book will do much towards raising paleontology to its legitimate place among the biological sciences.

LOUIS R. SULLIVAN